(d) As per information available 2 pilots have joined Gulf Air after resigning from Indian Airlines.

(e) Proportionate amount has been recovered from the final settlement of 3 pilots. Letters/legal notices for recovery have been issued to the remaining 32 pilots.

Proposal for Changes in the Air Corporations Act

488. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make changes in the Air Corporations Act;

(b) if so, whether the private airlines operating in the country are still feeling difficulties in proper functioning of their airlines;

(c) whether the monopoly of Government-owned airlines would be removed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). The Air Corporations (Transfer of Undertakings and Repeal), Ordinance, 1994 was promulgated by the President on the 29th January 1994. In accordance with the Notification issued by the Government in pursuance of the Ordinance, The Air Corporation Act, 1953 will stand repealed with effect from 1st March, 1994. Consequently, the monopoly of Air India and Indian Airlines on scheduled air transport services would be extinguished and private operators would be able to apply for authorisation for operating scheduled air services subject to prescribed terms and conditions.

Equity Base of Air India

489. SHRI MENTAYPADMANABHAM; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to enhance equity base of Air India;

(b) whether it is a fact that employees of Air India are ready to purchase equity;

(c) if not, whether Government are planning to sell equity to foreign companies; and

(d) the details of present equity base and debt?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There is no specific proposal, at present to expand equity base of Air India".

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Till 31.3.1993, Government have provided a total capital of Rs. 153.84 crores, of this, Rs. 79.47 crores is treated as equity and Rs. 74.37 crores as loan. The long term debt of Air India from sources other than the Government is Rs. 2097. 10 crores as on 31.3.1995.

Amount Approved for Tourism Action Plan

490. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee of Secretaries has approved the Rs. 39,000 crore Torism Action Plan proposed by the Tourism Ministry; and

(b) if so what are the details of the plan?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Department of Torism has prepared a discussion paper to augment tourist arrivals to India. The paper is still under discussion.

Failure of IA to sell A-320 aircraft

491. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item published in the Times of India of 1st February, 1994 under the caption "Why Indian Airlines failed to sell A- 320"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news, report relates to the period from February 1990 to December 1990 when the fleet of A-320 was grounded after the crash of an aircraft at Bangalore. At that time various options were examined to minimise losses from non-operation of the A-320 aircraft. Since the Government eventually permitted the use of A-320 aircraft in December, 1990, lease/sale options were not pursued. All the four aircraft mentioned in the report have since been inducted into the Indian Airlines fleet.

Enhancement of route navigation fee by NAA and IAAI

492. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Ministerof CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India have hiked the route navigation fee and landing and parking charges for aircrafts at all the airports in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the hike?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) With effect from 1.2.94, National Airports Authority (NAA) have increased Terminal Navigation Landing Charges, Route Navigation Facility Charges and Landing Charges by about 47% NAA will be levying parking charges for international and domestic flights at the rate of 50% of the housing charges.

International Airports Authority of India have also enchanced landing and parking charges by about 12.5% with effect from 1.2.94 subject to minimum landing charges of Rs. 500/- per landing and have re-classified weight slabs.

Acquisition of Boeing 747—400s

493. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what was the commercial logic behind Air India acquiring Boeing 747- 400s;

(b) whether there was any need to enquire the most advanced commercial planes; and

(c) the details of projections on the use, viability and potential of the Boeing 747-400s for Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Air India decided to acquire four B-747-400 aircraft as these were state of the art and fuel efficient aircraft. Such aircraft have greater appeal for passengers on highly competitive European, North American and Japanese routes. With the induction of these aircraft on these routes, Air India expects to earn better revenues and improved competitive edge.

नांदेड विमान पत्तन का विस्तार

494. श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव आधव: क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार नांदेड विमान पत्तन का विस्तार करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद): (क) से (ग) नांदेड हवाई अड्डा महाराष्ट्र की राज्य सरकार का है। संसाधनों की कमी के कारण राष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण की इस समय इसके विस्तार की कोई योजना नहीं है।

Encouragement to internal tourism

495. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to encourage internal tourism in the country by way of encouraging national integration;